United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, condemns decision of illegal de facto regime and military leadership in Haiti to expel MICIVIH; says action a serious escalation in regime's defiant stance towards international community.

+ Secretaries-General of United Nations and OAS decide to withdraw MICIVIH staff from Haiti, taking security situation into consideration; condemn illegal expulsion decree by de facto government.

+ Secretary-General welcomes German Court's decision on participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations; forsees larger role for Germany in world affairs.

+ UNHCR reports increasing numbers of Rwandans fleeing into neighbouring countries are seriously malnourished; estimates over 2.5 million displaced people in certain areas of Rwanda.

+ UNDCP Executive Director tells Economic and Social Council that Programme must strengthen ties with World Bank and IMF in fight against money laundering.

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The Security Council today condemned the decision of Haiti's illegal de facto regime and military leadership to expel the joint International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH). In a statement by its President, Ambassador Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council rejected the attempt by the de facto Haitian authorities to defy the will of the international community. It also condemned their attempts to avoid appropriate international scrutiny at a time of increasing indiscriminate violence against the country's civilian population.

The Council said it considered the action a serious escalation in the defiant stance of the regime towards the international community. Such provocative behavior directly affected the peace and security of the region. The regime and the military were individually and collectively responsible for

(more)

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the safety of the international presence in Haiti, the Council said and stressed its determination to bring about a rapid and definitive solution to the country's crisis.

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The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) today decided to withdraw staff members of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), taking into consideration the security situation there. The de facto government in Haiti yesterday issued a decree declaring MICIVIH members undesirable, and giving them 48 hours to leave the country. The Secretaries-General strongly condemned the illegal expulsion, noting that MICIVIH had been stationed in Haiti at the request of the constitutional President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

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Secretary-General today welcomed the decision of the German Constitutional Court regarding German participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The Secretary-General thanked the people and Government of Germany for that decision, and expressed his confidence that it would mean a larger role for the country in international affairs.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported the numbers of people fleeing from Rwanda into neighbouring Tanzania and Burundi are increasing. Some 2,000 people a day are arriving in Tanzania and last week 15,000 crossed into Burundi. According to a UNHCR spokeswoman, the new arrivals are seriously malnourished, indicating a rapidly deteriorating situation inside Rwanda. There is also evidence of renewed massacres.

The UNHCR is considering setting up cross-border operations in Rwanda, following reports of 200,000 to 500,000 Rwandese fleeing towards the town of Gisenye, mostly from Kigali. Another 350,000 people are west of Butare near the Burundi border. The UNHCR estimates there are over 2.5 million displaced people in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the country alone.

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The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is essential in the fight against money laundering, the Programme's Executive Director told the Economic and Social Council yesterday. Giorgio Giacomelli said the UNDCP must strengthen its ties with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Council was beginning its coordination segment on international cooperation within the United Nations system to fight the illegal drug business.

Japan said international financial institutions should cooperate with the Drug Control Programme, noting that the Group of Seven major industrialized

countries had just issued a communique confirming their determination to fight money laundering. The United States said it would work with the multilateral development banks to integrate drug control objectives into developmental aid. Mexico, speaking also on behalf of Venezuela and Colombia, said efforts to reduce drug demand were insufficient. Cooperation with agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) could help in addressing the problem of demand, which had received scant attention until recently.

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